

VZCZCXRO7648
PP RUEHDT RUEHPB
DE RUEHFR #0887 1281611
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 071611Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2961
INFO RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/06/2017
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SUBJECT: KOUCHNER TO URGE DELAY IN BURMESE REFERENDUM

REF: STATE 45471

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Young for Reasons 1.4 (B) and
(D)

Foreign Minister Kouchner will release a statement calling for the postponement of the Burmese referendum on May 7 or 8, according to Jeremie Petite, MFA desk officer for Burma. In response to reftel Demarche, Petite said on May 7 that Kouchner would release a statement that echoes EU Special Envoy to Burma Fassino's May 6 comments urging Burma to delay the May 10 referendum. Petite also reported that he expects that Kouchner will reiterate the EU's April 29 call for a "credible and legitimate" referendum. Post will transmit the statement to Washington when released.

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